



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

(Luke 3:4,6)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Preparing for Christmas is one way we remind ourselves that we are always in a state of preparing to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus. Opening up a roadway for the Lord to come into our lives is a never-ending process. The heart, at times, can be resistant to expanding. But during this holy season we must enlarge our hearts to fully accept the Lord and to be fully active members of His Church.

This weekend we will have a national collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. This goes to help all of the retired nuns, priests and brothers in our country for their past service to us and to the Church. Please do what you can to help.

By now you will have received my annual Christmas appeal giving you a summary of our present financial situation. We are facing a few hurdles at this time of the year and I ask that you be as generous as possible to help us in our present financial challenges. All donations should be submitted by December 31st for tax purposes.

The Pastoral Council will meet next week on Sunday, December 17th. Chairmen should have a brief report for their various committees.

As we observe this holy season of Advent, I wish you many graces and blessings from the Lord. May the Lord, with his grace, also change our hearts, that we may be ever more dedicated to him and to our faith!

May God's grace always grow in your hearts!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL: \$74,133.25 has been paid on our 2017 assessment of \$132,297. We still owe **\$57,905.08.**

ELEVATOR FUND

Current Donations.....\$ 668,403.90
Goal.....\$ 800,000.00



ADVENT ANGEL TREE: The Advent Angel tree is now up in the ramp area of the church. If you take an angel from the tree, please wrap the gift you have selected and tape the angel to your gift. **Please return the gifts to the parish hall by Thursday, December 14, 2017.** If you have questions, please call Jenifer Parsons at 681-9368 or 244-3101 ext. 204. Thank you!



FREE TO A GOOD HOME: As you may know, our St. Benedict Mission recently closed. We have 3 freezers and 2 combination freezer/refrigerators for give away to Basilica of Saint John parishioners. Please call the Basilica and ask for Charles Stastny at (515) 244-3101, ext. 205 to set a time to come and take a look. We only ask that you arrange for moving and pickup. First come, first served. Thank you.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 9 TO DECEMBER 17

TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS

SAT 9 4:00PM +Ron Weindel, Zach Walz, David Rachuy, & Andrew & Dorothy Wieberg
6:00PM Spanish Mass

SUN 10 8:30AM Intentions of Maria Nguyen Family
10:30AM Parish & Benefactors

MON 11 12:00PM +Jose & Ramona Rocha

TUE 12 12:00PM +Charles Frey

WED 13 12:00PM +Cody Henritz

THU 14 12:00PM +Lynn Ann O'Leary

FRI 15 12:00PM +W.E. Lowery

SAT 16 9:00AM + Lucille Molloy

(Vigil Mass)

4:00PM +Deceased Relatives of Father Aquinas

SUN 17 8:30AM + Kathryn Mauro
10:30AM Parish & Benefactors

THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:

www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn

<http://basilica.churchcastonline.com> (live from your computer)

PRAYER CHAIN: Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com or Terri at 321-2743 or sinc2@aol.com.

CATECHISM CORNER:

Question: Why is the church called the temple of the Holy Spirit?

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
(Look for the answer in next weeks bulletin.)



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped and participated at our Altar & Rosary Christmas Bazaar last weekend! The winner of the quilt was Nancy Bunker.



The Basilica of St. John
Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017

Respect
Life



YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK
DECEMBER 11 THRU DECEMBER 17

MON 9:00AM Adoration Until 12:00pm@
 11 1:00PM Guadalupe set up##
 4:30PM Guadalupe Rosary & Music##
 5:30PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass ##
 7:00PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception+
 7:00PM RCIA**

TUE 8:00AM Organ Practice
 12 4:30PM Columbus Academy Class**
 6:00PM Hispanic Room in use**
 7:00PM Bible Study**
 7:00PM 4th Degree KC Meeting+

WED 9:00AM Adoration Begins@
 13 9:30AM Bible Study+
 6:15PM Religious Ed. **

THU 8:00AM Organ Tuning-All Day+++
 14 5:45PM Choir room in use+++
 7:00PM Choir Practice+

FRI 9:00AM Adoration until Noon
 15 9:00AM Columbus Academy Class**
(Parish Office Closed in the afternoon)

SAT 8:30AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy##
 16 9:00AM Angel Tree Gifts to be picked up+
 10:00AM Secular Franciscan Meeting**
 10:00AM Carmelite Meeting**

SUN 8:00AM Vietnamese Prayer Group+
 17 12:00PM Pastoral Council Meeting+

SIGN INDICATORS

+++ = Choir Loft; ** = School; @ = Chapel; * = Rectory
 + = Church Hall; ## = Church; % = Conference Room;
 (N) = (North Hall); (S) = (South Hall)

Daily Scripture Readings for the week of December 11, 2017:

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

LIFELINES: Did you know, that after Conception? –In 18 days a baby’s heart begins to beat; in 43 days the brain coordinates movement; in 7 weeks a baby can hiccup; in 8 weeks organs can function; in 9 weeks a baby has permanent, individual fingerprints; at 10 weeks the baby can feel pain; at 12 weeks a baby can smile, suck their thumb and make a fist. Over 2 million couples wait to adopt –including children of all races & those with special needs. Any textbook will confirm what every doctor knows: **LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION!** [PROLIFE ACROSS AMERICA, Minneapolis, MN (pro-lifearticles.org)]



CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING: We will begin decorating the church for Christmas soon (*Date and time in next week’s bulletin*). We need lots of volunteers to help carry up the boxes of Christmas trees, poinsettias and decorations and also to help decorate! Please consider helping with this! All are welcome!



POINSETTIAS: If you would like to donate a poinsettia to help decorate the church, you can start having them delivered the week of December 18. If possible, please have them in gold foil. You may attach a card with a loved one’s name to the poinsettia, in their memory. An insert will be placed in the bulletin after Christmas acknowledging the memory of your loved one.

SAVE THE DATE: The Knights of Columbus will have their *8th Annual Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser* on Sunday, January 21st in the parish hall after the 10:30 Mass. All you care to eat, free will donation.



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL: Holy Family School celebrates Advent in preparation of Christ’s birth each Monday morning at 8:15 in the school gym with a prayer service. Parents are welcome to attend. Christmas break is December 13 (1:00pm dismissal) thru January 2. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3. Please be sure to make arrangements for the 1:00pm dismissal. A.C.E.S. will be open the afternoon of December 13.



The **Required Confirmation Retreat** for second year Confirmation Students will be the weekend of February 23-25, 2018. Students will be responsible for raising the funds. All second year students must participate. If you have questions call Maria Walters at 515-953-9188.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Join Us For An Ordination: Have you ever witnessed an ordination? Join the diocesan community as we gather on Friday, December 22 at 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose Cathedral for the transitional diaconate ordination of Ryan Andrew. He will be ordained a deacon, one of the last major steps toward becoming a priest. Join our faith community as we celebrate this sacrament with Ryan!

World Meeting of Families: The Diocese of Des Moines and Bishop Pates, with Iowa Catholic Radio, invite you on a pilgrimage to Ireland and to the World Meeting of Families. Our pilgrimage includes eight days of touring Ireland, as well as the opportunity to celebrate family life with Pope Francis in Dublin! Get information by contacting Adam Storey at astorey@dmdiocese.org or calling 515 - 237-5056.

Lend a Hand at Catholic Charities Food Pantry: Catholic Charities Outreach Center has re-opened as a choice food pantry. Call Brooke at 515-262-7290 to learn how you can volunteer to feed the hungry.

Counseling Services: Struggling with how to handle personal challenges? Contact our receptionist, Cheryl Maes at 515-237-5045 for more information or to set up a professional counseling appointment. Most major insurance is accepted, and a sliding fee scale is available for those without insurance.